

Tabling of Documents

and the Government of Canada as mediators to work toward a meaningful freeze of nuclear weapons, and at some point in the future to work toward the elimination of nuclear arms?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member would know that I have done a great deal in Canada to denuclearize our whole approach to defence. I did that in Canada, and I did that in NATO by denuclearizing our planes in Germany.

In so far as the over-all progress toward the reduction of nuclear arms is concerned, the Hon. Member would understand that it is not something Canada can do directly. It will depend ultimately upon negotiations between the two super powers. Canada as a member of an alliance, of which the United States is also a member, has made many suggestions in order to improve progress toward nuclear arms reduction.

I do not happen to think that the freeze is a good solution, certainly not a unilateral freeze. If we are talking about a freeze, and a verifiable one, it would certainly involve negotiations as to what we freeze, how, at what rate and how it is verified, which would be extraordinarily complex, intricate and lengthy. Rather than talk about a freeze, I think our side is correct in talking about a reduction which will take the same kind of verification and detailed negotiations. It is those negotiations which are going on now between the super powers. It is these negotiations which Canada is monitoring as closely as it can.

I think there is an honest division of opinion in Canada on whether or not the Cruise should be tested here. All I know is that that matter in a real sense, whichever way it is decided, will not be the crucial decision. The crucial decision is how quickly the two super powers are prepared to begin reducing their arsenal of atomic weapons.

Mr. Anguish: I was not talking about unilateral disarmament. I think the Prime Minister can play a meaningful role as the Prime Minister in mediation between the super powers because of his international reputation.

PROPOSED TESTING OF CRUISE MISSILE

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Prime Minister. We have come one step closer this week to testing the Cruise missile in Canada. I think that is unfortunate. There has been a great deal of secrecy around the agreement leading up to the testing of the Cruise missile. Will the Prime Minister assure the House that there will be a ministerial statement made by either himself, the Minister of National Defence or the Secretary of State for External Affairs, outlining the steps which have been taken so far and what will be the future steps leading up to the proposed testing of that missile, before any further agreements are signed allowing Cruise testing to take place?

• (1200)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I could make a short statement within the framework of the Question Period. I suppose the next step would be for the United States to reach the conclusion that it is ready to ask to test the Cruise Missile in Canada. The step after that would be for the Cabinet to examine whether we should accede to that request or not. We would be happy to have views from the Hon. Member on the subject.

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PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Thursday, April 21, 1983, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster): Madam Speaker, seeing that you have found my petition correct as to form, I would ask that the Clerk now read the petition.

Madam Speaker: As the Hon. Member knows, that request can only be complied with by unanimous consent. Does the House give its unanimous consent to the reading of the petition?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member does not have unanimous consent.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. STEVENS—REVISED BUDGET TABLES ALLEGED MISLEADING

Madam Speaker: I am prepared to rule on the question of privilege raised by the Hon. Member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens). However, as is usual, I would prefer to delay the ruling until the Hon. Member is present in the House.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

THE BUDGET

TABLING OF REVISED BUDGET TABLES

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of State (Finance)): Madam Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 46(2), I